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THE
MONTHLY



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GULL
BULLETIN

Volume 45 Berkeley, California December 1963 Number 12

PHOTOGRAPHER TO BE ON DECEMBER PROGRAM

The 545th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on **Thursday, December 12**, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rotary Natural Science Center in Lakeside Park, Oakland. Jack Bigelow, proprietor of the Cal Camera store in Berkeley and an expert photographer, will give us an illustrated lecture on the Monument Valley area.

A no-host dinner will be held at 6 p.m. at Lovely's Buffet, 336 Grand Avenue near Perkins. Come and bring a friend.—ROBERT C. DeCOSTA, JR., *Program Chairman*.

CHRISTMAS COUNT

Golden Gate's Christmas Count will be held in the East Bay this year on **New Year's Day**. Unfortunately, the early deadline for the December *Gull* means we can't give you information now about the areas in the East Bay that will be covered or the group leaders for each area. But we do know for sure who our compilers will be—Marshall Jencks (534-9353) and Valeria DaCosta (WE 1-5257)—and that the count they organize for the society will be a good one.

If you want to participate in the count, will you please get in touch with either Marshall or Val just as soon as possible? Plan also on attending an informal sandwich-and-coffee supper that will be held about 5:30 or 6 p.m. that day when the individual counts are all put together. Definite details as to time and place will be available a little later on.

Please save some time for us on **January 1, 1964**. You'll be giving yourself the best possible start for the New Year and, incidentally, you'll have a lot of fun.

The Marin-Tomales Bay Christmas Count has been scheduled for Sunday, December 29, at 8 a.m., with the group meeting opposite the Marin Post Office. If you want to count with the Marin group, please get in touch with Mrs. Winifred Davies, either at her home (30 Coleman Drive, San Rafael; phone 453-6125) or at her office (830-5th Avenue, San Rafael; phone 453-8407).—ERLINE HEVEL, *President*.

FIELD TRIPS FOR DECEMBER

On **Sunday, December 1**, to San Francisco Bay Salt Marsh Sanctuary near Newark, for a search for rails-clapper, Virginia and sora. Black rails could also be found. Mr. John Larson, Jr., Audubon Warden, and his assistant, Mr. Elwood Bunting, patrol this area at this time and will fill us in on where to find the rails. We plan to be on the levees on a plus high tide. A 6.6 high tide occurs at Golden Gate at 10:53 a. m. There will be some walk-

ing on rough ground. Bring waterproof footwear, lunch, binoculars, telescopes and friends. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the post office in Newark.

On **Saturday, December 7**, to Conn Lake in Napa County. Since 1951 this area has been on our list of winter trips. This lake is a favorite wintering spot for wood ducks. A good number of them can usually be seen. Whistling swan, Canada goose, gadwall, redhead and ring-necked ducks are often spotted. Red-shouldered hawk is present this time of the year. Meet at the stone bridge about one mile northeast of Napa on the El Dorado Trail, at 9 a. m. Bring binoculars, telescope, a lunch and interested friends. Leader, Harold G. Peterson, LOckaven 8-7534.

On **Sunday, December 8**, the Conn Lake trip will be repeated. This is being done to split the group for better birding. Leader, John Ralph, LANDscape 5-0373.

On **Sunday, January 19, 1964** a joint trip of Golden Gate Audubon Society and Marin Audubon Society will be taken up the Marin Coast off shore by boat. Purpose of the trip will be to study whales in migration and also to spot some species of water birds which are hard to see from land such as harlequin and old squaw ducks. We will probably go north of Point Reyes where Mrs. Alice Williams has seen whales in migration during mid January in previous years. Cost of trip will be \$8.50 per passenger. Make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society Inc. and mail to Harold G. Peterson, 3548-65th Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94605. Departure time from Berkeley pier will be at 6 a. m. on Privateer II with another pickup of passengers in San Francisco from Mobiloil Dock at the foot of Hyde Street. Leader to be announced.

—HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE—Early in November a special mailing was sent to 366 individuals living in San Francisco or the East Bay who have contributed to Audubon Canyon Ranch Fund but who are not members of any Audubon group. The National Audubon Society is bearing part of the expense of this promotional effort. After the first of the year—if results from this first mailing give us hope and encouragement—we plan another mailing to still another list of conservation-minded persons. If you have any prospects in mind for inclusion in the second mailing, won't you please send their names to our Membership Chairman?

SANCTUARY FUND REMEMBERED—The membership will be touched, and much pleased, to learn that Mrs. Jessie N. Trueblood left \$500 to the Golden Gate Sanctuary Fund on her death in October. The bequest was made in memory of her husband.

GOOD NEWS—We don't know where the convention will be held, or the exact dates, but this we do know—the National Committee on Conventions has recommended bringing the National Audubon Convention to California in 1966, and the recommendation has been accepted and approved by the National Board of Directors. Details about time and place will be published just as soon as final determination is made. The 1964 meeting will be held in Tucson, and it will be Boston in 1965.

Janet Nickelsburg and Harold G. Peterson represented Golden Gate Audubon Society at the 1963 convention, which was held in Florida, November 9-13.

—ERLINE HEVEL, *President*

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

It is high time we Conservationists—or, at least, this “columnist”—threw the flood lights on some things happening right around us in the Bay Region and Northern-Central California. It isn't that we have put too much emphasis on the long-suffering Wilderness Bill, permanent status for the Klamath-Tule Refuge, the scandal of nation-wide water pollution, and the pesticide menace — we dare not lose sight of such issues. But let us focus now on our California—“most populous state in the Union,” some folks proudly claim. Is bigness at any cost such a virtue?

Mr. John H. Sutter, Chairman of Citizens for Regional Recreation and Parks in the San Francisco Bay Area, laid it on the line for the State Recreation Commission in a September hearing—and expressed the feelings and fears of many of us. Sutter spoke of the vision which gave us today such oases in concrete jungles as Golden Gate Park, Lakeside Park, and the green plazas of San Francisco and Oakland. He described the “agricultural green belts” long ago established around London and which still exist there (and around other European metropolises). By comparison he described the often drab subdivisions, shopping centers, freeways, and sometimes treeless streets which feature suburban expansions in California. Sutter says “. . . our model has been Los Angeles. . . . A symptom of our crisis in values: millions for freeways, nickels for parks.” He suggests that more of the huge private foundations of America should assist in the acquisition and preservation of green space.

“Save The Bay” proponents found still another ally in the person of Professor C. F. Richter, seismologist of the Calif. Institute of Technology, who recently spoke of the dangers inherent in “unconsolidated ground” in magnifying the effects of a quake. But there are still too many people around our Bay who don't understand the economic, recreational, biological—even climatic and health—values of open waters, tideflat and marsh. Some even think such areas should be filled and replaced with more “slurbs” and freeways and factories. True, some more must eventually be filled for various purposes. But let us first develop a Master Plan. The new Association of Bay Area Governments—or ABAG—could do this, but it needs *your* support. Why? *Because you* want to see a few waterfowl, shorebirds, fish, patches of marsh and beach, and sails on the Bay for your grandchildren and others to enjoy!

And what if we can't save these precious natural values around our Bay? Well, meanwhile other master-developers, working on the highest levels where we haven't dared participate, may go ahead and inundate great areas of Northern California with lakes that would cover our biggest existing reservoirs — all in order to channel off water to vast arid areas of the Southwest which must build bigger slurbs. Perhaps we can then send our local water-birds, sailors and fishermen to these “inland bays” of our drowned valleys!

By the way, *have you read* "California Going, Going . . ."? If you have, you might appreciate the new pamphlet, "The Phantom Cities of California," issued free by California Tomorrow, 334 Forum Bldg., Sacramento 14, Calif.—PAUL COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*

DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS - GIFT GIVING - BIRDS!

Will these words initiate or motivate a train of thought? The AUDUBON CANYON RANCH FUND is growing, sturdily and slowly, and like all growing things it needs our help and care. No matter how small or large a gift may be, each gift is of value to our Canyon Ranch and to all who are participants in its welfare and development. A Very Merry Christmas to all! Please send tax-deductible gifts to Canyon Ranch Fund, P.O. Box 2113, San Francisco, 94126.—ALICE D. RADCLIFFE, *Treasurer*.

A BOOST FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

We are grateful to the *San Francisco Chronicle* for the excellent editorial on Audubon Canyon Ranch in the November 7th issue. The four-paragraph editorial praises the efforts of the Golden Gate and Marin Audubon Societies to raise money for the sanctuary. The *Chronicle* concludes: "This is a project important to the Bay Area's future, and deserves generous support."

FOR THE CHILDREN

During the month of December there will be no field trip for the children. In January I plan to take a group to the Ocean Beach. There will be full particulars about this trip in the next *Gull*.

Through a misunderstanding the article promised to the young people each month for the *Gull* did not appear in the November issue. I am sorry, since you might have used some of the facts I was intending to tell you on your trip with Miss Phyllis Lindley. Perhaps it is even now not too late to tell you about rocks. For what you read here may serve as a review of what you learned on your field trip.

THE THREE KINDS OF ROCKS

There are three sorts of rocks, though among these there are a great many varieties. Rocks are grouped together according to the way in which they were formed. The first sort of rock is known as IGNEOUS ROCK, which means that it was formed in the presence of heat or fire. (Igneus is the Latin word for fire).

Igneous rock is known as the primary rock because it was on Earth before either of the others. The Earth was in fact formed out of this rock which some say came from the sun and others that it came from space where small bits gathered together out of mutual gravitation. In the beginning our Earth was a bare place covered only with this rock. We do not find this original rock lying around today, but a great deal of igneous rock is still to be found on Earth. A large portion of it has been pushed up from below the surface at the time when mountains rose, and another large part has been thrown out by volcanic action. Both sorts of igneous rock lay once beneath the crust of the Earth where, because it was subjected to tremendous pressure and to the heat of radioactive substances, it melted to a substance known as magma. This magma is composed then of many minerals all melted together. When it is thrown out of a volcano the magma

cools as it reaches the air and this it does so quickly that the minerals cannot separate. But when the magma pushes slowly up towards the surface as it does in mountain building each mineral hardens separately when it has reached a specific temperature. Granite is an igneous rock of this sort and that is why it looks speckled. Take a lens and look at it and you will be able to pick out the different minerals of which it is formed.

The second kind of rock is known as SEDIMENTARY. This means that it is formed of sediments, which are bits of matter that has settled to the bottom of water. So all sedimentary rocks had their origin beneath the seas, the lakes or other bodies of water. Here they were packed down tight by the weight of the water above until rock was formed.

How did the sediment get into the water? It washed off the mountains and the surface of the land and was carried down by streams and deposited under the water. Sandstone and shale are common sedimentary rocks, and around San Francisco we have a great deal of chert, that red, green or light grey rock of which Twin Peaks is formed.

The third kind of rock is called METAMORPHIC, which means that it has been changed. In other words, metamorphic rock might originally have been igneous or sedimentary, but because it was crushed, squeezed and/or exposed to heat its form was completely changed. For instance, mudstone, a sedimentary rock is changed to slate, and serpentine, that greenish, soft rock found on Mt. Tamalpais and also in San Francisco was once igneous rock known as peridotite. Marble, too, is metamorphic rock as are also the many schists we find in this area.

Do you know the difference between a rock and a mineral? A mineral is a substance which no matter how you crush it, no matter into what small pieces you may divide it, will always remain that same mineral for its parts cannot be separated except by chemical action. A rock is, on the other hand, composed of two or more minerals and therefore these can be picked out or crushed out of it.

So all the three sorts of rock—igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic are made up of at least two minerals and some of them of a great many more.

I hope you had a good time with Miss Lindley.

—JANET NICKELSBURG, *Education Chairman*

WATERFOWL REFUGES FIELD TRIP

Altogether some forty members and guests attended the three auto-caravan birding trips held during the cool, overcast weekend of November 2-3. The 25 or more birders who covered the "south section" of the Sacramento Valley Wildlife Refuge before noon on Saturday were joined at picnic lunch by a dozen Berkeley Hiking Club members, and this combined force set out for an afternoon tour of the main refuge. Biologist and "Acting Manager" Bob Abney greeted us for the Fish and Wildlife Service, passed out much helpful literature and then accompanied us.

There were "geese by the millions" (actually tens of thousands), mostly lesser snow and white-fronted, to thrill the novice birders, and American widgeons by the thousands. Early-bird scouts Oliver Allen and Bob

Peterson and wife located European widgeon, redhead, Ross' geese and blue goose (Allen), but these birds invariably took off when our lengthy caravan approached. Large additional flocks of ducks and geese were expected later from Klamath-Tule and other northern refuges, and the whistling swan had barely put in an appearance. Several white pelicans out of a large resting flock showed green and yellow dyes—part of an experiment conducted on nesting colonies to aid in pesticides residue studies. (Mr. James Keith of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at the University of California, Davis, wants a report on all such dyed pelican records.)

White-tailed kites were twice observed by the caravan, but hawks were represented only by marsh, sparrow and redtail, with no eagles at all. Both egret species were seen in number, also great blue, black-crowned night herons and the American bittern—all on this refuge.

A pleasant supper with some 35 birders at the Country Kitchen near Gridley was highlighted by Joyce Roop's guitar playing and community songs. Grey Lodge State Game Refuge provided sandhill cranes, as usual, on our Sunday morning tour—but the great sunrise mass movements of the cranes, geese, and ducks were witnessed by early birders like Alice Radcliffe, Oliver Allen, and the Petersons, Jr. Our hats off to them! We found pintails predominant at Grey Lodge, where a tornado-like funnel rising off one distant pond rendered our newcomers quite speechless! Really, this area and the Sacramento Refuge and Klamath-Tule represent outstanding wildlife spectacles of our Pacific Coast, which all should go to see!—PAUL F. COVEL, *Leader & Historian*

TOMALES BAY STATE PARK TRIP

On October 15 an estimated 24 persons showed a deep desire to come out in the rain, an interest not shared by the birds, who, in species, did not exceed their observers. Several red-breasted nuthatches, which foraged together, were probably members of a single family. Some plants in full bloom mistook the date: cow parsnips and poison hemlock, and, still bearing berries, pink honeysuckle vine and toyon. A very beautiful landscape included roadside windrows of glowing wet leaves.—MARSHALL JENCKS, *Leader & Historian*.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS OF DISTINCTION

Unique Christmas gifts are available from the National Audubon Society's Conservation Resource Center, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. The Center has many new books and other attractive items in a wide price range for both adults and children. Among the recent additions are new ceramic tiles with western birds painted in full color. Treat yourself to the fun of shopping in the National Audubon Center. Your purchases there will help conservation. Shopping hours are 12 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays through December 21. (Telephone: 848-4042).

BEST WISHES, MR. AND MRS. FRANK SCOTT

Golden Gate Audubon Society will miss Mr. and Mrs. Frank Scott, who have moved to Carmel Valley. Both of them have been very active members for many years. Mrs. Scott was our President in 1954, and her beautiful wildlife movies have been enjoyed by many audiences throughout the Bay Area. We send them best wishes in their new home.

SANCTUARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

The following gifts were made recently to the Audubon Canyon Ranch sanctuary and memorial fund:

In Honor of:

Mrs. Edward A. Bullis

Gift of:

Muriel Ransom

In Memory of:

Lois Ruffner

Gift of:

Frances J. Blake

" "

Joanne Taylor

Mrs. B. W. (Gladys) Keefe

Hillside Gardeners of Montclair

Fanny Scheitlin Rueger

Emma L. Rueger

Mrs. Belle Simon

Isabel Louisson

" "

Aileen Pierson

Mary Agnes McDonald

Dr. John M. Erskine

—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Berkeley, Mrs. Norman T. Davis, Mrs. Julius H. Freitag, Mr. John V. Jansen, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Larson; from Concord, Mrs. Donna Hill; from Hayward, Hayward Area Recreation & Park District; from Oakland, Mrs. Elsie H. Bannihir; from Orinda, L. W. Evans; from San Francisco, Mr. Burgess Cogill, Miss Irene F. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Peter W. Newman, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Rohatsch, Miss Betty B. Searles; from Tiburon, Mr. John Ccnovich.

—VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Membership Chairman*

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Wildlife Film Chairman	Mrs. Frances Ellen Fallgatter,	406 El Cerrito, Piedmont 11	OL 5-9582
Conservation Chairman	Paul F. Covel	2860 Delaware St., Oakland 2	KE 6-4120

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$8.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2.00 per year.

Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, California 94701 TH 8-4042

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